

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141748

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI

SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY OF AIRCRAFT-RELEASED LASER-
GUIDED WEAPONS

REF: USNATO 05295 DTG 141353Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

1. WE CONCUR WITH THE LABERGE PROPOSAL OF GIVING PRIORITY
CONSIDERATION TO INTEROPERABILITY OF AIRCRAFT-RELEASED
LASER-GUIDED WEAPONS. THIS IS AN EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE
OPTION. COCKPIT DISPLAY AND AIRCRAFT INTERFACE
PROBLEMS ARE MINIMAL AS COMPARED TO OTHER ELCTRO-OPTICAL
GUIDED WEAPONS SYSTEMS. WE SHOULD SEEK A LEVEL OF
INTEROPERABILITY THAT WOULD ALLOW AIRCRAFT OF ONE
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NATION TO LASER DESIGNATE FOR AIRCRAFT OF ANOTHER
NATION AND TO BE ABLE TO USE PRECISION GUIDED WEAPONS
OF ANOTHER NATION. STANDARDIZATION OF INTERFACE
ITEMS SUCH AS PLUGS, PINS, CONNECTORS, SUSPENSION
LUGS AND ADAPTORS AT THIS STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS
A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACHIEVING INTEROPERABILITY
OF LASER GUIDED WEAPONS.

2. AS WE SEE IT, THERE ARE FIVE OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL, ALL OF WHICH NEED FURTHER

EXAMINATION BY MISSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF:

- (1) SEPARATE SUBGROUP OF THE NAFAG
- (2) WORKING GROUP UNDER SUBGROUP 9
- (3) WORKING GROUP UNDER THE NEW SUBGROUP ASSUMING THE AHC WG/2 TASKS
- (4) INTERSERVICE LASER INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP UNDER THE MAS
- (5) MAS AIR ARMAMENTS WORKING PARTY

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO RECOMMEND AN OPTION NOT KNOWING HOW IT WILL IMPACT ON OTHER NATIONS; HOWEVER, UNLESS OTHER ARGUMENTS SURFACE WE LEAN TOWARD ONE OF THE TWO MAS BODIES MOST APPROPRIATE. IF THERE IS TIME, MISSION MAY WANT TO APPRISE ASYG LABERGE OF THESE OPTIONS PRIOR TO THE 20 JUNE NADREP MEETING.

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